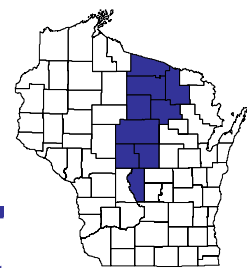


WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

for the North Central Wisconsin counties

Adams, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas and Wood



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In this issue:

>North Central Wisconsin averaged 70 more jobs in 2005 than in 2004.

>Biggest average job gains in North Central Wisconsin (nonfarm estimates): Education & Health Services, followed by Financial Activities.

>Biggest average job losses in North Central Wisconsin (nonfarm estimates): Government, followed by Leisure & Hospitality, and Manufacturing

>Vilas County led North Central in proportional job growth with a 1.6% yearly gain from 2004; on the opposite end of the spectrum, Oneida County experienced a -1.9% drop.

>In comparison, Wisconsin job estimates grew by 1.0%.

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2005 - The Year in Review

From February through November, **Adams County's** unemployment rate estimate seemed to trend toward more typical levels, but the December 2005 rate was almost as far above the typical level as the December 2004 rate was. The total employment estimate tracked its year-ago levels fairly closely, almost always within 1 percent or 50 jobs of its year-ago level. The retail & wholesale trade employment estimate began 2005 slightly above its January 2004 level, but failed to match year-ago levels in the summer and was nearly 50 jobs or 8.8 percent below its year-ago level in December.

In **Forest County** the unemployment rate estimate peaked earlier than usual in the winter and fell a bit faster than usual in late winter and early spring, but did not fall as fast as usual in late spring and early summer. Although the leisure & hospitality employment estimate remains below its year-ago level, it finished the year closer to the year-ago trend than it started the year. The same is true of the total (all-industries) employment estimate. In 2005 the education & health employment estimate followed similar general trends to 2004, but it began the year above its year-ago level and finished the year below its year-ago level.

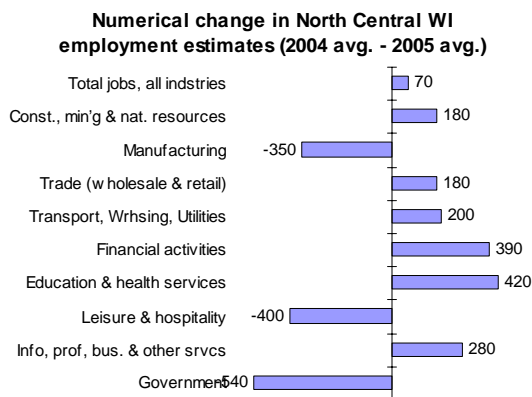
The **Langlade County** unemployment rate estimate remained below its typical levels through August. September and October unemployment rate estimates were fairly close to typical levels and the December estimate was further above its typical level

than any monthly rate in 2005. The construction employment estimate was below its year-ago level for every month of 2005 except for December. The retail & wholesale trade employment estimate did not rise as much this summer as last summer, nor did the November-December holiday season bring it above its year-ago level. The leisure & hospitality employment estimate has been below its year-ago level for ten consecutive months; this trend became more pronounced in the autumn.

In the second half of 2005 **Lincoln County's** unemployment rate estimates tended to stay closer to typical levels than in the first half. The manufacturing employment estimate began 2005 roughly 170 jobs or 4.7 percent below its year-ago level and finished the year slightly above its year ago level. From April through September, the education & health em-

ployment estimate was below its year-ago level. From October through November, education & health employment estimates roughly matched their year-ago levels. From April through December, the leisure & hospitality employment estimate was below its year-ago level.

While **Marathon County's** unemployment rate estimates were closer to their typical levels in the second half of 2005 than in the first half of 2005, they were also above their typical levels more often in the second half. From January through June, the manufacturing employment estimate was well above its year-ago level; from September



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through November, it was below its year-ago level. Of the ten months from January 2005 through October 2005, eight saw leisure & hospitality employment estimates 200 jobs below their year-ago levels, so a December 2005 estimate that matches the December 2004 estimate (no gain or loss) could be taken as a mildly encouraging sign.

For eleven months of 2005, **Oneida County's** unemployment rate was 0.5 percent to 1.0 percent above its typical level. Between December 2003 and December 2004, the education & health services employment estimate gained about 140 jobs or 3.9 percent; between December 2004 and December 2005, the education & health services employment estimate lost roughly 210 jobs or 5.7 percent. The information, professional & business services and other services employment estimate

started 2005 about 80 jobs or 4.0 percent below its year-ago levels. In the second half of the year, this estimate was often very close to or above its year-ago level.

For most of 2005, **Portage County's** unemployment rate estimate was roughly 0.1 percent to 0.3 percent above its typical level. The retail & wholesale trade employment estimate began the year well above its year-ago levels, but did not pick up as much this autumn as it had last autumn, so it ended the year barely matching its year-ago level. The leisure & hospitality employment estimate started 2005 below its year-ago level and finished above its year-ago level largely because the autumn slowdown was less pronounced this year than last.

Except for a faster-than-usual decline in April and May, the unemployment rate in **Vilas County** spent most

North Central Wisconsin Unemployment Rates: Typical and Actual (not seasonally adjusted)

		Dec 2004	Jan 2005	Feb 2005	Mar 2005	Apr 2005	May 2005	Jun 2005	Jul 2005	Aug 2005	Sep 2005	Oct 2005	Nov 2005	Dec 2005
Adams County	Actual	7.6%	9.3%	9.7%	8.9%	6.7%	6.2%	6.0%	5.5%	5.5%	5.2%	5.1%	6.3%	7.5%
	Typical	5.7%	7.1%	7.4%	7.1%	5.4%	4.4%	4.8%	4.5%	4.1%	3.7%	4.1%	5.2%	5.7%
	Difference	1.9%	2.2%	2.3%	1.8%	1.3%	1.8%	1.2%	1.0%	1.4%	1.5%	1.0%	1.1%	1.8%
Forest County	Actual	6.7%	8.5%	8.9%	8.7%	8.1%	6.1%	6.5%	6.0%	5.8%	5.1%	5.0%	6.1%	7.3%
	Typical	6.5%	7.4%	8.3%	9.2%	9.0%	6.3%	6.7%	5.9%	5.4%	4.8%	4.6%	5.6%	6.5%
	Difference	0.2%	1.1%	0.6%	- 0.5%	- 0.9%	- 0.2%	- 0.2%	0.1%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.8%
Langlade County	Actual	5.9%	7.0%	7.3%	7.0%	6.3%	5.1%	5.4%	5.1%	5.2%	4.5%	4.8%	5.2%	6.3%
	Typical	6.1%	7.0%	7.6%	7.6%	6.8%	5.4%	6.1%	5.4%	5.5%	4.6%	4.7%	5.7%	6.1%
	Difference	- 0.2%	0.0%	- 0.3%	- 0.6%	- 0.5%	- 0.3%	- 0.7%	- 0.3%	- 0.3%	- 0.1%	0.1%	- 0.5%	0.2%
Lincoln County	Actual	5.3%	6.6%	7.1%	6.8%	6.1%	5.5%	5.2%	4.4%	4.4%	4.3%	4.2%	4.6%	5.1%
	Typical	5.2%	6.5%	7.8%	8.0%	6.5%	5.2%	5.6%	4.7%	4.6%	4.2%	4.0%	4.7%	5.2%
	Difference	0.1%	0.1%	- 0.7%	- 1.2%	- 0.4%	0.3%	- 0.4%	- 0.3%	- 0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	- 0.1%	- 0.1%
Marathon County	Actual	3.7%	4.9%	5.6%	5.0%	4.2%	4.3%	4.3%	3.8%	3.7%	3.6%	3.3%	3.6%	3.7%
	Typical	3.8%	5.3%	5.9%	5.8%	4.6%	3.9%	4.5%	3.9%	3.8%	3.4%	3.2%	3.5%	3.8%
	Difference	- 0.1%	- 0.4%	- 0.3%	- 0.8%	- 0.4%	0.4%	- 0.2%	- 0.1%	- 0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	- 0.1%
Oneida County	Actual	6.3%	7.8%	8.3%	7.9%	6.4%	5.0%	4.9%	4.3%	4.3%	4.2%	4.1%	5.2%	6.4%
	Typical	5.7%	6.8%	7.3%	7.4%	6.6%	4.3%	4.2%	3.6%	3.6%	3.4%	3.6%	4.8%	5.7%
	Difference	0.6%	1.0%	1.0%	0.5%	- 0.2%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%	0.5%	0.4%	0.7%
Portage County	Actual	4.0%	5.6%	5.9%	5.5%	4.6%	4.4%	4.8%	4.3%	4.4%	3.5%	3.2%	3.7%	4.0%
	Typical	3.8%	5.3%	5.6%	5.4%	4.4%	4.2%	5.1%	4.2%	4.3%	3.1%	3.0%	3.4%	3.8%
	Difference	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	- 0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
Vilas County	Actual	6.9%	8.1%	8.8%	8.4%	7.7%	5.1%	4.7%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	5.5%	6.8%
	Typical	6.0%	7.4%	8.3%	8.8%	8.0%	4.4%	3.9%	3.2%	3.0%	3.1%	3.3%	5.1%	6.0%
	Difference	0.9%	0.7%	0.5%	- 0.4%	- 0.3%	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%	1.0%	0.9%	0.7%	0.4%	0.8%
Wood County	Actual	5.0%	7.2%	7.6%	7.1%	5.6%	5.9%	5.5%	5.1%	5.4%	4.3%	4.1%	4.7%	5.0%
	Typical	4.1%	5.8%	6.2%	6.2%	4.8%	4.2%	5.3%	4.4%	4.6%	3.4%	3.2%	3.8%	4.1%
	Difference	0.9%	1.4%	1.4%	0.9%	0.8%	1.7%	0.2%	0.7%	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%

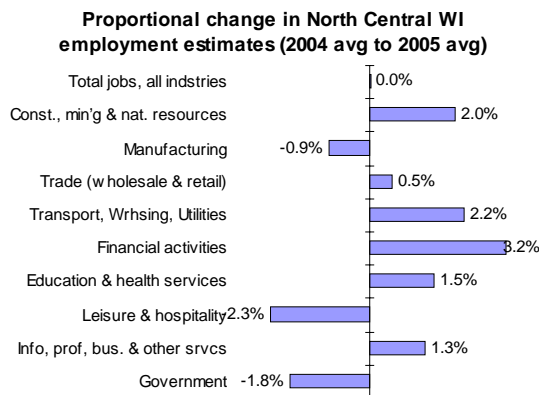
** Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are **NOT** seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

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2005 between 0.5 percent and 1 percent above its typical level. The leisure & hospitality employment estimate did not rise as high this summer as last summer, but it did not fall as quickly this autumn as it did last autumn. October, November and December were the only months of 2005 to see higher total (all-industries) employment estimates than the same months of 2004.

The last six months of 2005 saw **Wood County** unemployment rates between 0.7 percent and 0.9 percent above their typical levels. The manufacturing employment estimate generally remained roughly 350 jobs to 450 jobs (4.8% to 6.4%) below its year-ago level. The retail &

wholesale trade sector started 2005 roughly 150 jobs or 2.4 percent below its year-ago level and finished 2005 about 250 jobs or 3.6 percent below its year-ago level. The transportation, warehousing & utilities employment estimate was approximately 50 jobs or 1.6 percent above its year-ago level in January and about 160 jobs or 5.0 percent above its year-ago level in December. The leisure & hospitality employment estimate followed the 2004 trend for much of early and mid 2005, but did not decrease as much this autumn as it had last, so this December's estimate was 60 jobs or 2.1 percent higher than last December's.



North Central Wisconsin Employment-by-Industry Estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			Adams		
	Oct-Dec 2005 average	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Oct-Dec 2005 average	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Change from Oct-Dec 2004
Total jobs, all indstries*	2,865,600	0	1.0%	4,100	10	0.2%
Const., min'g & nat. resources	139,400	0	4.9%	260	10	5.2%
Manufacturing	503,300	300	0.1%	410	- 10	- 1.3%
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	440,400	- 3,200	- 0.7%	480	- 40	- 6.9%
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	110,700	470	0.4%	120	- 10	- 5.7%
Financial activities	158,200	1,130	0.7%	90	0	5.0%
Education & health services	390,000	0	1.6%	560	10	2.2%
Leisure & hospitality	250,700	0	2.6%	480	- 10	- 1.1%
Info, prof, bus. & other svcs	446,900	0	1.8%	470	10	2.4%
Government	426,000	0	0.8%	1,240	20	1.8%
	Forest			Langlade		
	Oct-Dec 2005 average	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Oct-Dec 2005 average	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Change from Oct-Dec 2004
Total jobs, all indstries*	3,500	- 20	- 0.5%	8,000	70	0.9%
Const., min'g & nat. resources	150	10	8.7%	460	- 10	- 1.5%
Manufacturing	380	10	1.9%	1,750	170	10.9%
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	300	- 10	- 1.7%	1,510	- 70	- 4.2%
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	160	- 10	- 5.0%	400	10	3.0%
Financial activities	120	10	6.9%	340	30	8.9%
Education & health services	370	- 10	- 2.5%	980	0	0.2%
Leisure & hospitality	150	- 30	- 15.0%	750	- 30	- 3.5%
Info, prof, bus. & other svcs	220	0	2.3%	720	10	0.7%
Government	1,630	0	0.0%	1,080	- 50	- 4.5%

* Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

North Central Wisconsin Employment-by-Industry Estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Lincoln			Marathon		
	Oct-Dec 2005 average	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Oct-Dec 2005 average	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Change from Oct-Dec 2004
Total jobs, all indstries*	12,000	20	0.2%	71,900	100	0.1%
Const., min'g & nat. resources	390	0	0.1%	3,100	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	3,700	10	0.2%	18,300	- 170	- 0.9%
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	1,620	- 30	- 1.6%	14,000	130	1.0%
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	420	0	- 0.5%	2,800	- 30	- 1.2%
Financial activities	890	50	5.6%	5,100	130	2.7%
Education & health services	1,080	0	0.4%	7,700	70	0.9%
Leisure & hospitality	990	- 20	- 2.1%	4,700	- 100	- 2.1%
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	990	20	1.8%	8,100	0	0.0%
Government	1,960	0	- 0.1%	8,200	70	0.8%
	Oneida			Portage		
	Oct-Dec 2005 average	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Oct-Dec 2005 average	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Change from Oct-Dec 2004
Total jobs, all indstries*	18,100	- 340	- 1.9%	35,500	- 190	- 0.5%
Const., min'g & nat. resources	1,310	- 20	- 1.7%	1,340	30	2.5%
Manufacturing	1,240	- 70	- 5.3%	4,800	- 100	- 2.1%
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	4,300	0	0.1%	6,700	- 70	- 1.0%
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	480	0	0.2%	1,800	- 30	- 1.8%
Financial activities	540	10	2.2%	4,100	90	2.2%
Education & health services	3,500	- 190	- 5.2%	3,600	220	6.4%
Leisure & hospitality	2,100	30	1.4%	3,000	70	2.5%
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	2,300	30	1.2%	4,600	240	5.5%
Government	2,400	- 130	- 5.1%	5,500	- 640	- 10.4%
	Vilas			Wood		
	Oct-Dec 2005 average	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Oct-Dec 2005 average	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Change from Oct-Dec 2004
Total jobs, all indstries*	8,200	130	1.6%	43,000	- 50	- 0.1%
Const., min'g & nat. resources	960	40	4.1%	1,630	0	0.3%
Manufacturing	290	- 20	- 7.3%	6,500	- 420	- 6.0%
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	1,460	20	1.2%	6,400	- 250	- 3.8%
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	160	10	8.0%	3,500	180	5.4%
Financial activities	350	20	6.7%	1,220	60	5.2%
Education & health services	700	20	2.5%	10,400	70	0.7%
Leisure & hospitality	1,530	- 60	- 3.6%	3,000	60	1.9%
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	660	30	4.1%	4,900	100	2.0%
Government	2,100	70	3.7%	5,400	150	2.9%

*Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.